

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE AINEW YORK TIMES
5 June 1986

Former Naval Analyst and Wife Plead Guilty to Spying for Israel

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 4 — A former United States Navy intelligence analyst pleaded guilty today to spying for Israel, and the Justice Department named four Israelis as unindicted conspirators in his espionage activities.

In a plea bargain, Jonathan Jay Pollard confessed selling classified documents. His wife, Anne Henderson Pollard, pleaded guilty to two lesser offenses.

In another espionage case, a jury in Baltimore began considering charges against Ronald W. Pelton, a former employee of the National Security Agency, who is charged with selling secrets to the Soviet Union. [Page B10.]

More Charges Possible

Federal prosecutors said in court papers that Israeli officials had asked Mr. Pollard to gather classified satellite photographs and other intelligence material related to Israel's defense after he made the initial contact with the Israelis. Beginning in 1984, Mr. Pollard provided Israel with stacks of material gathered from the United States Navy, where he worked as a counterterrorism analyst, according to the court documents.

Prosecutors would not rule out later charges against the Israelis, including Rafael Eitan, who once led an intelligence-gathering unit in the Israeli Ministry of Defense that purportedly oversaw Mr. Pollard's activities. Joseph E. diGenova, United States attorney in Washington, said the investigation was continuing.

Mr. Eitan was closely associated with former Prime Minister Menachem Begin and with former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. His ties to those and other leading Israeli politicians have contributed to the political sensitivity of the case, which has caused strains between the United States and Israel.

The Israeli Embassy in Washington had no comment on the case.

In Jerusalem, Israeli officials refused to comment in any detail.

Ehud Gol, Foreign Ministry deputy spokesman, said the Government would not discuss the case because "a sentence is awaited," adding, "We would like to stress that the Government of Israel continues to cooperate

fully with the United States Government."

United Press International reported that Dan Ashbel, spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, said of the case: "This actually was a deviation from a clearcut policy of the Government of Israel. It was an act against the policy of Israel. The unit mentioned in this affair was dismantled."

Israeli officials said last year that Mr. Eitan was to be removed from his post because of the Pollard case.

Pete Roussel, a White House spokesman, said, "No matter which way the question comes out, we are pursuing the investigation on the Pollard case and we'll do so until it is resolved." He would not comment on the matter further, except to say that the Administration had been in touch with the Israeli government, which "promised full cooperation."

When asked if that meant that the Israelis were actually cooperating, he replied: "The statement speaks for itself." Mr. Roussel made the comment aboard Air Force One as President Reagan returned to Washington from a political trip to Greensboro, N.C.

Damage Assessment Unsure

Justice Department officials said they remained unsure of the extent of the damage done by the Pollards. The indictment provided few details about the nature of the classified documents provided to the Israelis.

Officials have said Mr. Pollard passed secret documents involving American counterintelligence techniques, Soviet jamming methods and the military capabilities of other nations.

A 13-page Government summary of the case said that Mr. Pollard once wrote to Joseph (Yossi) Yagur, a former science attaché in the Israeli consulate in New York City, concerning missile systems "designed or manufactured by various non-Communist countries, which might be available for sale to Iran, including the system known as Cactus." Cactus is the name of a guided surface-to-air weapon system made in South Africa.

In the indictment released today, the prosecutors said the Israeli espionage operation also included Aviorn (Avi) Sella, an Israeli Air Force colonel; and Irit Erb, a secretary in the Israeli Embassy here. The Justice De-

partment said none of the Israelis mentioned today was in the United States.

Mr. Pollard, 31 years old, pleaded guilty to one count of espionage for selling military secrets to the Israelis and could have faced life imprisonment. His lawyer, Richard Hibey, said that under the plea bargain, the Government had waived its right to ask for the maximum prison sentence.

Mrs. Pollard, 26, could be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison. A Justice Department official who asked not to be named said Mr. Pollard had agreed to the plea agreement largely to obtain leniency for his wife.

Mr. diGenova, the United States Attorney, said he would ask for a "substantial term of incarceration" for Mr. Pollard. Judge Aubrey E. Robinson Jr., who accepted the plea bargains, has not set a date for sentencing.

Arrested in November

The Pollards were arrested last November after they drove to the Israeli Embassy here in what they acknowledged was an attempt to gain political asylum.

Their arrests set off an investigation that has left many unanswered questions about the extent of Israeli intelligence activities in the United States.

Asked today whether the leadership of the Israeli Government had authorized the espionage scheme, Mr. diGenova would not answer. "The question remains open," he said at a news conference. "I have not resolved the question."

Papers filed in Federal District Court here today identified Mr. Pollard as a civilian Navy analyst whose duties included "research and analysis of intelligence data pertaining to potential terrorist threats in the Caribbean and the continental United States."

In that post, he had access to material classified higher than top secret.

An Exotic Espionage Scheme

The court documents disclosed new details of an exotic espionage scheme that required Mr. Pollard to remain a spy for 10 years in exchange for hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Israeli government. By the time of his arrest, prosecutors said, Mr. Pollard had already received more than \$45,000.

At the end of his spying career, according to court documents, the Israeli Government would have provided Mr. Pollard with a new name and allowed him to move to Israel.

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The court documents said Mr. Pollard met several times with Israeli agents, including Mr. Eitan, in Washington and Europe. Three times a week, prosecutors said, Mr. Pollard gathered documents from his office at the Naval Investigative Service in Suitland, Md.

Then about every two weeks, Justice Department officials said, Mr. Pollard delivered a suitcase containing the documents to the home of Miss Erb, an Embassy secretary.

How Case Reportedly Began

They said Mr. Pollard began his espionage career when he asked an unnamed associate to set up a meeting in 1984 with a high-ranking Israeli Air Force officer, Colonel Sella, who was then a graduate student at New York University.

Colonel Sella and Mr. Pollard arranged a meeting that summer in Washington, where Mr. Pollard said he wanted "to work as an agent for the Israeli Government, and to provide United States classified information and documents to the Israeli Government," prosecutors said in their summary of the case.

Mr. Pollard, the summary said, told the colonel he could provide "signal intelligence and technical information which could be used by Israel to strengthen its defense capabilities."

Hebrew Alphabet for Code

The two men were said to have agreed on a "code system, based upon the Hebrew alphabet," to be used by the Israeli to get in touch with Mr. Pollard at various pay telephones in Washington.

In November 1984, the document said, the Pollards traveled to Paris for a weeklong stay and met with Mr. Sella, Mr. Eitan and Mr. Yagur, who was then the science consul at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

At the meetings, the Israelis told Mr. Pollard of the type of intelligence material they wanted. Mr. Eitan, the summary said, told Mr. Pollard that Israel "sought specific classified information in order to identify and assess threats to Israel's security."

Until his retirement, Israeli sources said, Mr. Eitan led the Defense Ministry's Liaison Bureau for Scientific Affairs, which oversaw the espionage operation that included Mr. Pollard.